

Lee, Lily

From: Joanie Connors (b)(6) >
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:03 PM
To: Tijuana-Transboundary-EIS
Cc: Starr Belsky; Marcia Stout; Denise Smith
Subject: comment on Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

Comment re: Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), for the Tijuana Transboundary Border Barrier

We are writing to you as the Borderlands Committee for the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Aldo's Silver City Broadband, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization led by women, that focuses on education about, and advocacy for, public lands. We are part of a national organization headquartered in Durango, CO, with over forty affiliated chapters nationwide with the mission of preserving and protecting public lands for future generations.

In service of that mission, we wish to express our general support of this plan to remedy some of the pollution issues from the Tijuana River.

We have concerns about the adjustable gates/barriers planned by the CBP to prevent access by undocumented immigrants and smugglers. If the gates malfunction, the impact could be catastrophic and possibly damage the wetland ecosystem on both sides of the border. Also, when the gates are lifted during the rainy season as intended, the bridge infrastructure that is part of the current plan will still slow the river flow, causing negative impact upstream including flooding.

We urge planners of this project to consider and meet NEPA standards before implementing these gates. You must ensure that the CBP's aims do not undercut the desired environmental benefits of this project.

Sincerely,
Joanie Connors & Starr Belsky
Borderlands Committee
Aldo's Silver City Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Silver City, NM